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# Seafood Turnovers, Ice Cream, Fanfare: UD's 150th Anniversary Party Takes Months of Preparation

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Sept. 15, 1999  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **SEAFOOD TURNOVERS, ICE CREAM, FANFARE: UD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY TAKES MONTHS OF PREPARATION**

DAYTON, Ohio — Imagine throwing a big party and inviting the entire city.

How many people will show up? How much food should be served? Will the weather hold out?

Those are just a few of the questions that a University of Dayton sesquicentennial planning committee has been trying to answer for the past year and a half to prepare for UD's 150th anniversary kickoff celebration on Saturday, Sept. 25. The day begins in the Humanities Plaza with the premiere of a specially commissioned fanfare at 1 p.m. and ends with an outdoor jazz concert by the renowned Woody Herman Band, followed by a pyrotechnics show at dusk.

"This is definitely the biggest event we've ever done," said Susan Sauer, director of advancement services, whose special events staff coordinates about 110 University events each year — ranging from groundbreaking ceremonies to corporate executive lunches to dinners for hundreds.

Hamburgers and hot dogs suffice for some casual gatherings on campus, but for the sesquicentennial bash, campus chefs are going for glamour. Pizzas dusted with goat cheese, artichokes wrapped in bacon and small mushroom "purses" are among the hors d'oeuvres to be served. And the event will have a food of its own. Free samples of a new ice cream flavor created by Young's Jersey Dairy, a strawberry and blueberry swirl, will be served and available for purchase.

Campus visitors will receive a St. Joseph's medal, which is symbolic of the founding of UD. The school began with an act of faith — and no cash — nearly 150 years ago. In the middle of a cholera epidemic, the Rev. Leo Meyer, S.M., gave landowner John Stuart a medal of St. Joseph and a promise of \$12,000 at 6 percent interest in return for Dewberry Farm — 125 acres of vineyards, orchards, a mansion and various farm buildings. On July 1, 1850, St. Mary's School for Boys, a frame building that not long before had housed farm hands, opened its doors

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to 14 primary students from Dayton. Today, the University of Dayton is the largest independent university in Ohio and ranks among the largest, most respected Catholic universities in the nation.

To appropriately celebrate UD's birthday, planners knew that the entire community should be involved in the celebration. "One of our themes is 'community partner, national leader,'" said Kenneth Kuntz, chair of the sesquicentennial celebration team and a retired psychology professor. "That community involvement is part of the Marianist tradition. It's something that the Marianists have always done and that we've always taught our students." Kuntz started his part-time job as chair of the anniversary celebration team on May 16, 1998, just a day after he completed 32 years in the psychology department.

The main purpose of the kickoff celebration is to showcase the University as a local, regional and national leader in Catholic higher education, Sauer said. "And the way to do that is to invite people to campus who haven't ever been here or haven't been on campus for a while," she said.

In August, about 1,200 invitations to the convocation were sent to local leaders and government officials, college presidents and University supporters and friends, but the day's events are open to anyone in the Dayton community. All University parking lots will be open, and parking is also available at the NCR lot at the corner of Brown and Stewart Streets, where a shuttle will run from noon until 6 p.m.

"The hardest part, since we've never done this before, is that we don't have any idea how many people will come," Sauer said. "We are setting up 750 chairs for the convocation, and there will be extra space on the lawn. So if we get thousands, that will be great."

The day will start at 1 p.m. with the performance of the fanfare followed by a Mass celebrated by Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk in the Humanities Plaza. In case of rain, the Frericks Convocation Center will house the festivities.

Throughout the day across campus, there will be computer and laboratory demonstrations, open houses, student-performed music and dance recitals and art exhibits. Members of Dayton Flyers athletic teams will sign autographs, and poet Herbert Martin will give his popular portrayal of Paul Laurence Dunbar. A brass rendition of the University's logo will be unveiled at 3:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Union lobby, and the winner of the sesquicentennial ice cream-naming contest will be announced.

At a formal convocation at 4:30 p.m. on the Humanities Plaza, faculty members in caps and gowns will form a procession and hear Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M., University president, talk about the history and future of UD. Fitz, the longest-serving president in UD's history, will be recognized for his more than 20 years of leadership.

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A gala reception starts at 6 p.m. — complete with 45 dozen seafood turnovers, 75 dozen bacon-wrapped artichoke hearts, 45 dozen goat cheese pizzas, 60 dozen portabello mushroom purses, 60 dozen vegetable cobblers and 600 pieces of cake, each with a mint featuring UD's new logo, according to Melissa Clark, general manager of catering services at UD. Herbert Schotz, executive chef at UD, will display an elaborate ice sculpture of UD's new logo.

"We do a lot of large events, but this is one of the biggest. And this is much more upscale as far as the menu is concerned," Clark said.

Since the plans call for serving the food outdoors, picnic pests such as bees and ants are a real concern, Clark said. "That's why we're having servers pass all the food," she said. "With hors d'oeuvres, we usually try to go with food that we can replenish easily. For this we also wanted to make the food very elegant."

At 7:30 p.m., the UD jazz ensemble will perform, accompanied by members of the nationally known Woody Herman Orchestra. The Woody Herman band will headline their own concert at 8:30 p.m., and the evening will conclude with a pyrotechnics display (low-level fireworks similar to the ones used at rock concerts).

"The weather will play a big part in the turnout," Kuntz said. "And it will be difficult to do a real count because people will be coming to campus throughout the day."

Even when the last mint wrapper is picked up from the lawn, the sesquicentennial planning committee's work will not be finished.

"We have to do an evaluation of the event to see what could have been improved," Sauer said. "One of these days, we will be doing this again. And it will be fun to pass along the notes to the bicentennial celebration committee."

The kickoff opens the University's celebration of its sesquicentennial. Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary (the Marianists), UD has become a national leader in Catholic higher education, graduating students who are prepared to succeed professionally and who know the value of service and leadership to community. The celebration, which will run through May 2001, will include song and dance, religion and humor, and events that range from film to philosophy.

A calendar of events being held in celebration of UD's sesquicentennial can be found on the Web at <http://www.udayton.edu/150/>.

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